



Dancing KLM crew brought down to earth

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — A pilot and two cabin crew members were dancing atop a Boeing 747 have been "punished" by KLM. The Dutch Airlines, it was reported Saturday, the pilot and first officer and two cabin crew had been suspended from the top of the aircraft for dancing during a flight from Amsterdam to Guatemala City last month. But their actions were not punished by a court. A Belgian photographer took the picture showing the pilot in uniform dancing on the wing of the aircraft. The pilot, who was suspended for three days, was not punished. The pilot and two cabin crew members were suspended for three days.

Woman slaps Papandreu for dishonouring 'all women'

ATHENS (AFP) — A woman slapped the Greek Prime Minister Constantinos Karamanlis for dishonouring "all women" after he accused a woman of being a prostitute. The woman, who was not named, slapped Karamanlis on the cheek after he made the accusation. Karamanlis, who was in the middle of a speech, did not react. The woman was later taken to hospital for treatment. Karamanlis later apologized for his remarks.

Gun-toting granny gets jail for casino heist

ALBUQUERQUE (AFP) — A 70-year-old woman was sentenced to 18 months in prison for her role in a \$1.5 million casino heist. The woman, who was armed with a handgun, was part of a three-person gang that broke into a casino and stole the money. She was the only one of the three who was caught. The other two were still at large. The woman was sentenced to 18 months in prison for her role in the heist.

A sign of the times in South Dakota

SOUTH DAKOTA (AFP) — A sign in a South Dakota town reads "No more signs." The sign was placed in front of a building in a small town. The sign was a protest against the proliferation of signs in the area. The sign was removed by the town officials.

They huffed and puffed, but to no avail

NEW YORK (AFP) — A group of protesters huffed and puffed but failed to stop a train from passing through a tunnel. The protesters were trying to block the train, but they were unsuccessful. The train passed through the tunnel without incident.

Jordan warns Israel not to 'cross redline' again

DUBAI (AFP) — The Minister of Interior warned Israel on Sunday that it would pay "a high price" for any further attack in Jordan, after a failed bid to assassinate a Hamas leader. The bid was "unacceptable and they will pay a high price if they try to repeat" such acts, Minister of Interior Nuthir Rashid told Al Bayan newspaper in the United Arab Emirates. "Jordan's security is not up for sale or compromise," he said. "We consider it a redline which we will not allow anyone to cross." Mr. Rashid was referring to the September 25 assassination bid in Amman against Khaled Misha'al, Hamas politburo chief, by Israel's spy service, Mossad.

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Jordan receives invitation to MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Sunday received a Qatari invitation to attend the Doha economic summit which will be held in November. The invitation was delivered to Dr. Tarawneh by the Qatari charge d'affaires in Amman.

Inmates set Turkish prison on fire

ANKARA (AFP) — Prisoners protesting against a plan by the Turkish justice ministry to move several inmates from an Istanbul jail on Sunday set the prison on fire, the Anatolia news agency reported. Firefighters later brought the blaze under control in the Bayrampasa prison on Istanbul's European side, but security forces were unable to enter the dormitories because of resistance by rioting inmates, it said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Algeria and South Africa in arms deal

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South African armsmaker Denel has clinched a deal to supply Algeria with military equipment worth \$17 million, Johannesburg's Sunday Independent reported. The newspaper said the deal includes the supply of a Seeker remote-piloted vehicle and a pilotless plane equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance equipment. The Algerian authorities will use the equipment in their fight against Islamist rebels, the report added.

Bahrain jails three for setting bus on fire

MANAMA (R) — Three Bahraini Shiite Muslims have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to four years for an arson attack, local newspapers said on Sunday. The state security court sentenced Mohammad Youssuf Abdulwahab to four years jail, Sayyed Hashim Taj Hashim to two years and Mahmoud Ahmad Daif to one year. The three were found guilty of setting a private bus ablaze in a Bahraini village, the papers said. Two Bahraini women received a three-month suspended sentence and were fined 50 dinars each for taking part in anti-government gatherings.

UAE seizes Iraqi Kurd illegal immigrants for first time

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Border and coast guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have seized 18 people, including Iraqi Kurds, as they tried to sneak into the country, newspapers said Sunday. Security officials said it was the first time that Iraqi Kurds were caught trying to enter the country illegally. "They came by sea from Iran and tried to enter Ras Al Khaimah from the mountains," a security official said.

Sign-up of runners for 13th Parliament closes

561 candidates registered including 17 women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five-hundred and sixty-one candidates, including 17 women, registered to contest the 1997 elections of the 13th Parliament. Fifty-three new candidates joined the race yesterday, on the last day of registrations, while 68 and 440 registered on Saturday and Friday respectively. Visiting the elections' central operations room at the Ministry of Interior Sunday morning, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was briefed on the current preparations for the Nov. 4 polls (See story on page 3).

The would-be deputies in the 80-seat Lower House were required to pay JD 500 in registration fees and submitted their applications to the administrative governors of the constituencies in which they had chosen to run. According to the Elections Law, the governors will decide within three days from the submission of the applications which candidates will be approved and which will be rejected if found short of the requirements stipulated by the law. Sources at the Ministry of

Interior said lists of both rejected and approved candidates will be displayed in each governorate "so that both candidates and voters can see them." Article 24 of the 1986 Elections Law stipulates that "if the administrative governor decides to reject the candidacy application because it does not conform with the provisions of the law, the applicant may submit an objection thereto before the Court of First Instance." The law also states that "every voter may appeal the acceptance of any candida-

cy in his/her constituency before the Higher Court of Justice within three days from the date of display of the lists." Five-hundred and fifty-nine candidates contested the 1993 elections. However, the total of this year's candidates is somewhat lower than expected. In the last few weeks, local press reports had estimated that more than 750 candidates would run in this year's election race, the third since the resumption of full parliamentary life and the

(Continued on page 2)

Israeli probe opens into Mossad assault; premier says he wants to keep Yatom

Combined agency dispatches

A GOVERNMENT inquiry began taking testimony on Sunday about Israel's bungled attempt to murder a leader of the Hamas group in Jordan, a spokesman said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, having ordered Mossad secret agents to assassinate Hamas political chief Khaled Misha'al last month, appointed a three-man "clarification committee" last week to investigate the affair.

Mr. Netanyahu denied on Sunday he wanted to sack the head of the Mossad spy service over the bungled assassination attempt. "The prime minister strongly repudiated the reports in the media, according to which he is planning to replace the head of the Mossad [Danny Yatom]," a statement from his office said.

Albright discusses with Arafat, Netanyahu peace process developments

Mr. Netanyahu called such reports incorrect, and stressed that he fully supports the Mossad and its leader," it said.

General Yatom was strongly criticised by the Israeli opposition and the press for his role in the attack last month.

Spokesman Moshe Fogel said the committee, headed by a former defence ministry legal adviser, was beginning to take testimony at an undisclosed security installation. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Netanyahu, a right-winger elected on a promise to deliver peace and security, has dodged questions about his competence in battling "terrorism" and managing peace with Jordan, the Arab country that has shown the warmest relations with Israel.

Ms. Albright discussed with the Israeli leader his summit with President Arafat last week — the first meeting between the two men for eight months — and described the encounter as "progress." Mr. Netanyahu's office said.

Following the surprise summit at the Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the Jewish state agreed to unlock \$50 million of revenue for the PNA and the two sides agreed to resume security cooperation.

Nearly 850 killed in Turkish incursion into northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey said Sunday that its troops and Iraqi Kurdish allies had killed 797 separatist Turkish Kurds and lost 46 members in three weeks of fighting in northern Iraq following an army incursion into the area. "A total of 797 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) members have been killed" in action and 40 others have been captured alive or surrendered, a military official told the state-run Anatolian news agency.

Eleven Turkish soldiers and 35 fighters from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), allied with Ankara, have been killed in the northern Iraq campaign since Sept. 23, the official said. Fifty soldiers and 140 KDP members were also injured.

It was the first time the Turkish side had announced its official losses. The figures could not be confirmed independently.

Hamas prisoners in Gaza launch hunger strike

GAZA (R) — Members of Hamas jailed by the Palestinian National Authority launched an open-ended hunger strike on Sunday, they said in a statement.

"The battle for the empty stomach is either martyrdom or freedom," the prisoners said in a statement faxed to Solidarity International, a human rights group based in Washington with a branch in the Gaza Strip. It said more than 70 Hamas detainees in prison in Gaza for some 20 months were taking part in the hunger strike.

Crown Prince calls on ministers to bridge results of Fifth Science Week with government decisions

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday underlined the need for bridging the results of the Fifth Science Week with the government's decisions in various fields. Addressing the chairman and members of the Ministerial Development Committee at a meeting held at the Royal Court in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Regent stressed the importance of classifying government's decisions and working out an action plan for their implementation in accordance with a clearly-set time table.

During the meeting, the committee members thoroughly discussed subjects tackled by the Fifth Science Week including productivity, quality and transparency and the results of the week's meetings so that action can be taken for the implementation of the recommendations passed during the event.

Those resolutions included, among other things, the institutionalisation of the Fifth Science Week which was held in Amman recently followed the convening of three roundtable meetings, the first of which involved Jordanian and Japanese experts which focused on the industrialisation policy, the second involved Jordanian and Canadian experts and focused attention on administrative organisation and the third was with the international society for transparency.

U.S. contemplating new bans against Iraq at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States intends to circulate a resolution this week that may call for travel bans against Iraqi officials, although diplomats say it is far from certain key Security Council members will approve. U.S. officials consulted with several council members last week, who reported that the travel ban on Iraqi officials responsible for obstructing the work of U.N. arms inspectors were about the only sanctions left that could be imposed.

Alternatively, however, the council could adopt another resolution, extending its threat in June to take further measures. It is also expected to continue its suspension of regular 60-day reviews of stringent trade embargoes imposed on Iraq in 1990 when its troops invaded Kuwait.

With France, Russia and China generally less inclined to approve further measures against Baghdad, there were doubts whether a travel ban or other sanctions would be adopted. Both U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson and State Department spokesman James Rubin have said that Washington would have a "strong and serious response" when all 15 council members officially discuss the issue Thursday.



A MATTER OF POWER AND EDUCATION: Three children in Baghdad have no other choice but to do their homework using a lantern for light early Sunday. Baghdad is suffering power cuts as a result of severe shortages of spare parts vital for power plants. Iraq cannot afford to buy these parts for lack of funds caused by the continuing economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. Iraqi children will tomorrow mark the 10th anniversary of the bombing by Iran of a primary school in a Baghdad suburb where dozens of school-children died as classes were about to start on the day of October 13, 1987 (Reuters photo)



MINISTER RECEIVES PAKISTANI DELEGATION: Minister of Justice Riyadh Shakra'a Sunday receives a Pakistani judiciary delegation representing the Islamic Shariah Academy at the International Islamic University. Mr. Shakra'a and the delegation, headed by Ma'arouf Shirazi, discussed channels of cooperation and coordination in judicial fields. Eid Lawzi, the ministry's secretary general, also held talks with the visiting delegation and gave a tour of the new Palace of Justice (Petra photo)

Man receives 20-year sentence for smuggling drugs to Israel

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 41-year-old man was sentenced Sunday by the State Security Court to a 20-year imprisonment term with hard labour after he was found guilty of complicity with international gangs to smuggle drugs into Israel.

Nasser Ali, a Wadi Araba resident, originally received the death sentence, a verdict immediately commuted by the military court tribunal "because he had no past criminal record and deserves a second chance."

Mr. Ali, who pleaded not guilty to the charge, was also ordered to pay JD10,000 in fines by the court, which was presided over by Judge Colonel Youssef Fauri and Judges Lieutenant Col. Aref Syouf and Major Salem Sa'oudi.

According to court documents, Mr. Ali met with an Arab Israeli man in 1995, who introduced him to a man from Beir Sabe' identified only as Abu Khalil, "and the three agreed to smuggle heroin from Turkey to Israel via Jordan."

The three travelled to Istanbul, where they met with a group of Turkish people, and agreed to smuggle nine kilograms of heroin from Turkey to Israel. Mr. Ali's mission was to store the drugs until they were to be smuggled to Israel, the court said.

Mr. Ali was apprehended in the town of Huwara in Irbid on June 4, 1997, by Anti-Narcotic Department undercover agents, who posed as the runners that would smuggle the drugs from Jordan to Israel.

Also Sunday, the same military tribunal sentenced ten people to prison terms ranging from one to 12 years with hard labour, and ordered them to pay fines ranging from JD1,000 to JD10,000 after being convicted of smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia.

The same court acquitted eight other people the prosecution charged belonged to the same group of 23 people, of whom five were tried and sentenced in absentia.

The group was charged by State Security Prosecutor Captain Mahmoud Hiyasat of possessing, trafficking, and smuggling heroin.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the group began their illegal activities in 1995 by smuggling 3,000 pills to Saudi Arabia from Jordan in tanks.

A year later, the group imported 60 kilograms of heroin from Turkey and started distributing it in the Kingdom through its members, until they were arrested in the Hassa area on Aug. 10, 1996, while attempting to sell heroin to undercover agents.

All verdicts will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

Queen Alia Fund, Spanish NGO offer development programmes for women

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As a further step in the socio-economic advancement of women, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), in cooperation with the Assembly of Cooperation for Peace (APZ), have embarked on joint projects for the development of women and the support of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Jordan.

The projects are currently being implemented in the governorates of Ma'an and Aqaba with the participation of 1,800 women. A total budget of \$400,000 has been allocated to both projects, with QAF covering half the cost with in-kind contributions and APZ, a Spanish NGO, contributing the balance until August 1998.

"The projects are being carried out in 16 QAF Centres, ten in Ma'an and six in Aqaba," said Hassan Ustah, director of the Social Development Department at the QAF.

He told the Jordan Times that these projects are targeting 5,000 beneficiaries, but for the time being 1,800 "peer leaders" are being trained.

"We hope that these peer leaders will act as mediators once they conclude their training, so they can reach the rest of women working at the grassroots level," Mr. Ustah explained.

The first project on women in development focuses on education, awareness, and training to help women in making decisions regarding their lives, families, and careers, he said.

Under this provision, the QAF offers women seminars and workshops on family planning, health, legal rights, and vocational training. The aim is to assist women in finding jobs and becoming independent, he stated.

The second project focuses on the support for NGOs in Jordan.

Mr. Ustah remarked that "NGOs stress the participation of grassroots [activists] in the formulation of development strategies that are relevant to the needs and living conditions of the communities concerned."

The priority here will be upgrading the administrative and managerial capabilities of developmental NGOs in the southern governorates, the director said.

This includes the development of technical capacities and higher coordination to avoid duplication in NGO work, he added.

"We stress the qualitative content of programmes and freeing up resources through greater efficiency to stretch their value," elaborated Mr. Ustah.

According to the director, the adoption by NGOs of more effective modes of communication with the grassroots participants encourages the latter to participate and cooperate in local community development and NGO-sponsored programmes.

The QAF, Mr. Ustah concluded, follows an integrated approach in its development policies. Women are usually the focus of projects and awareness and training are essential prerequisites in the institution of small-business ventures.

Prime minister examines election operations room

Large voter turnout expected for election — Rashid

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday visited the Ministry of Interior and inspected the central operations room created by the ministry for the upcoming general elections.

Dr. Majali was briefed on the preparations concerning the ballot boxes, the distribution of voter cards, the work of committees, and other details concerning the electoral districts.

Dr. Majali was told that the total number of registered eligible voters was 1,890,035, of which 573,000 persons have already received their voter cards.

He was also informed that 533 candidates have already registered to run in the Nov. 4 event.

Meanwhile, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid said in a newspaper interview published Sunday that the government will not interfere in the general elections, nor is it siding with one group or party.

He told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan that he believed there will be a large turnout by voters on election day, "because the people got fed up with the 'rejectionists' who are boycotting the elections and who will realise that they were wrong and pay a price for their absence from the [political] arena."

"We have finalised our preparations for the elections, which will be transparent, fair, and free," stated the minister, who said the government is offering all the necessary facilities for the candidates and is open for any queries on election-related matters.

Commenting on the decision by certain political groups to boycott the elections, the minister said "these groups declared their boycott at an early stage and tried to impose their terms on the government."

He said 400,000 people registered for the first time to take part in the elections this year, raising the number of registered eligible voters to nearly two million, up from 1.5 million in the 1993 elections.

Mr. Rashid said it should be clear that the government is not fielding its own list of Islamists to run as independents in the elections, adding that "with all frankness, the government has made no such plans and we do not have any lists of Islamists or others, and we regard the opposition as a basic component that deserves respect."

Referring to the one-person, one-vote election system, the minister said it was approved by a majority in Parliament before the 1993 elections, adding that democracy means the minority should respect the views of the majority.

The government has given political parties until the end of this year to adjust to regulations on all financial and other matters, according to the minister.

"We have served them notice to comply with the Political Parties Law, because we know that some of these parties are merely extensions of political groups abroad and that some of their funds come to them from outside Jordan," he stated.

The minister noted that some of these parties have been violating the law, as some of them have no addresses, no registers, and no offices, while others operate from their homes and through their private telephones.

"The Political Parties Law should be amended to include a clause requiring a party to have at least 500 members at the founding level, so that political life can be taken more seriously," Mr. Rashid added.

Referring to the Press and Publications Law, the minister noted that "some people believe the Ministry of Interior was behind the enactment of this law, which is totally untrue."

The government has the right to introduce any temporary law, in accordance with Article 194 of the Constitution, he said.

Mr. Rashid disclosed that groups opposed to normalisation of relations with Israel two months ago tried to organise a conference to be attended by at least 300 people, but only 80 persons attended.

"The Jordan-Israel peace treaty was approved by a national congress and endorsed by Parliament, but we do not impose normalisation on anyone, nor do we call for it, but we have to consider the Jordanian people's relations with their kinsmen in the West Bank and the Palestinians living inside Israel," stressed the minister.

Referring to security affairs, he said "Jordan's security is not subject to compromise and we regard security as a red line that should not be crossed by anyone."

Commenting on the failed attempt on the life of Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas office director in Amman, the minister said "we reject the attempt in form and content."

"Those behind such attacks will pay dearly should they make another attempt," he added.

Referring to those who shot at Israeli embassy officials, the minister said "the perpetrators' statement after the attack was a falsehood, because there is no such organisation in Jordan with that name. We have gathered important information on the car used in the attack and we hope to resolve the mystery surrounding it soon and arrest the assailants."

"The attackers are not professionals and all that I can say is that we now hold the leading lines and are confident of the results of our investigations," he stated.

Traffic accidents kill 25 in one-week period — bulletin

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-five people were killed and 375 others injured in road accidents that occurred between Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Sunday.

During this period, there were 691 road accidents, including 496 that involved collisions between vehicles and 102 cases of vehicles running over pedestrians, the bulletin said.

There were 25 more road accidents during this period than the same period last year, while the number of injured increased by 75 and deaths by 16, according to the bulletin.

Amman Governorate had the greatest number of these accidents, accounting for 56.3 per cent of the total number, followed by Zarqa, 10.7 per cent, and Irbid, 9.6 per cent, the bulletin stated.

The majority of injured people in these accidents, 21.3 per cent, were in the 10-20 age group, while 18.3 per cent were below the age of 10, according to the statistics.

Drivers between 21 and 30 years of age accounted for 40.3 per cent of the total number of drivers involved in the accidents, the bulletin noted.

Speeding, incorrect passing, and loss of control over the vehicles were the main causes of these accidents, the statement continued.

Meanwhile, the Civil Defence Department Sunday announced that it dealt with 125 accidents in the 24 hours before Sunday morning.

These accidents, which included nine cases of fires, resulted in 24 injuries and one death.

Majali urges teachers to assume greater role in 'freedom and participation'

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday said teachers are the main instruments for translating the slogan of "freedom and participation" into practice and should assume their roles in realising this slogan.

At the opening session of a seminar entitled "The Teacher and Future Challenges," organised by the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at the Royal Cultural Centre, Dr. Majali proposed convening weekly meetings by teachers with groups of up to 25 students to share ideas and discuss issues pertaining to the education process, with the students given the freedom to put forth ideas for discussion.

At such meetings, the prime minister said, both teachers and students would discuss various topics freely and offer suggestions, and also take part in the decision-making process of their respective schools.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri called for a revision of legislation concerning the selection of teachers.

He said only distinguished and fit persons should be chosen for teaching.

Three working papers, "The Teacher and Social Changes," "The Teacher and the Challenge of Globalisation," and "Excellent Education," were reviewed by the participants, all educators from the public and private sectors.



From right to left Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Director Ibrahim Izzeddin, Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and Former Deputy Prime Minister Said Tell attend the "Teacher and Future Challenges" seminar (Petra photo)

U.S. donates JD1 million of insulin for diabetics, one-third of yearly need

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. government has donated insulin worth JD1 million to Jordanian diabetic patients, according to an Al Ra'i Arabic daily report quoting government sources in Amman.

The report said the donation was part of a commitment made by the U.S. administration to offer Jordan various assistance.

According to the sources, the insulin shipment, expected to arrive in a few days, accounts for one-third of the nearly JD3 million of insulin used annually in Jordan.

Insulin is considered a high-cost drug, which government-run pharmacies sometimes cannot keep in stock.

The donation comes in the wake of recent public complaints that insulin could not be found at government hospitals.

The announcement on the insulin donation coincided with the start of a nationwide campaign by the Ministry of Health Sunday to raise public awareness of diabetes.

The one-month campaign will end Nov. 14, the International Day for Diabetes, and includes lectures, seminars, and media messages.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

* Dutch film "Oeroeg" and Belgian film "Toto Le Heros" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

LECTURE

* "Administrative Reform in Jordan Between Theory and Application" by Dr. Yasser Al 'Udwan at 'Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

PLAY

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

EXHIBITIONS

* "Photo exhibition on the impact of sanctions imposed on Iraq at Hamourabi Art Gallery, until Oct. 14"

* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al-Ebadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 5537598).

* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90's" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihana Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 65869677), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranea" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti prince conveys regards to King, Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received a cable conveying the good wishes of Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah while flying through Jordanian airspace. Prince Saad wished the King and Prince Hassan continued good health and the Jordanian people further progress and development. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also received a cable from the Kuwaiti emir.

Joint Jordanian-Syrian water commission meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Water Resources Sunday held a meeting, during which they discussed implementing agreements on launching joint investments on the Yarmouk River. The meeting, which was held at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), also reviewed the procedures of building Al Wihda Dam and the need for protecting water resources. Chairing the meeting were JVA Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh and the Syrian Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Barakat Hadid.

UNIVERSITY FAIR

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

Tuesday, October 14, 1997
from 17:00 - 20:00
The Marriott Hotel, Amman

Participating Colleges/Universities:

- American University of Paris
- Amer School of Liberal Arts/Regents College, London
- Franklin College Switzerland
- Richmond, American Univ. of London
- Univ. Maryland, Germany
- Webster Univ. Geneva, Vienna, Leiden, London

Workers clash with police in central China

BEIJING (AFP) — About 1,000 demonstrators and workers from state-owned factories have clashed with police in the central Chinese city of Zigong, a U.S.-based rights group said in a statement Sunday.

The clashes erupted Friday in the Sichuan province town after 300 people went on strike at the No. 2 Radio Factory, Human Rights in China said.

A police spokesman confirmed by telephone that unemployed workers had demonstrated in the city's streets Friday against a court decision to declare several state enterprises bankrupt.

He did not say how many people took part, and did not confirm the reports of violence.

Human Rights in China said about 50 anti-riot police and more than 200 policemen broke up the

demonstrations after the protesters blocked a major highway intersection on the edge of the city of three million residents.

The strikers were joined by sympathisers swelling the number to about 1,000 and traffic was stopped for five hours from midday, the group said.

Some workers were briefly detained by police, the New York-based group added.

According to Human Rights in China, the workers were protesting their low monthly salaries of 50 to 100 yuan (\$6 to \$12), which sometimes were not paid. They were also angry that no health insurance claims had been paid in two years.

The workers called on the local authorities to support them in their demands, but when they received no reply, they decided to take their campaign onto the

streets.

The 15th Communist Party Congress last month adopted biting reforms outlined by President Jiang Zemin to streamline the debt-burdened, lumbering state sector which are expected to throw millions out of work.

But Mr. Jiang warned the cutbacks were necessary to introduce a shareholding system and allow failing companies to go bankrupt and unemployment.

He also indicated that the days when Chinese workers could expect the state to provide them with a living were over. Premier Li Peng has admitted that unemployed workers were finding it hard to find new jobs and admitted that some

regions were experiencing problems with public order.

Troubles have broken out several times in recent months in Sichuan, the most populated province in China with 100 million residents.

In September, Human Rights in China said there had been clashes between police after the licences of some of the push-bike drivers in Dujiangyan were revoked, preventing them from using their adapted vehicles to transport goods.

In July, thousands of workers laid off when three Mianyang state enterprises declared bankruptcy took to the streets charging that unemployment funds had been embezzled and demanding compensation.

These reports are never mentioned in the official Chinese press, and only come to light via dissidents abroad.



French President Jacques Chirac makes a point during the final press conference to close the Council of Europe's second summit. Chirac denied that a surprise plan for France, Germany and Russia to hold annual summits meant they would become a directorate leading post-cold war Europe (Reuters photo)

Council of Europe seeks wider role on European stage

STRASBOURG (AFP) — The Council of Europe, the continent's long-dormant human rights watchdog, stepped centre stage after the conclusion of a successful 40-nation summit whose ultimate objective is to weld 800 million citizens into a single, coherent society.

Twenty-one presidents and 19 prime ministers affirmed the council's standard-setting role in matters of democracy and human rights among which, for the first time, the right to work was featured prominently.

The French organisers of the two-day summit stressed its psychological importance in bringing older and newer — for which read: Western and post-Communist — members together on an equal footing as part of a single family.

Closing the proceedings Saturday, host President Jacques Chirac acclaimed the meeting as an achievement in itself.

"It is the first time that 40 heads of state and government have gathered around a table to talk in the same terms about such essential issues as man's place in society, his rights, his dignity and social progress," he said.

Virtually every country in Europe — all 40 council members, together with four candidate members — attended, sending its highest possible representation. Only

two states were absent: Belarus, suspended for human rights violations, and Serbia, which has not applied to join.

Proceedings were dominated by the presence of Russia, attending for the first time since its accession to the council last year.

President Boris Yeltsin seized the occasion to announce the setting up of an annual three-nation summit involving Russia, Germany and France, an initiative which highlighted the summit's political ambitions and aroused some misgivings among smaller nations.

Mr. Chirac was at pains to deny that he, Mr. Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl were forming a cabal to run the continent's affairs and pointed to the need to anchor Russia within Europe and build on the final ending of the divisions imposed by the postwar Yalta settlement.

In their final declaration, Europe's leaders declared their goal as creating a "freer, more tolerant and just European society." The implication was that it should be different from that of the United States, whose absence from the summit (other than as an observer) was stressed by the French organisers and several participants.

Among the summit's more striking pronouncements was a call for the worldwide abo-

lition of the death penalty, still used in several American states.

French premier Lionel Jospin insisted on the "social dimension", singling out unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment, as the greatest challenge facing Europe.

The council's Social Charter, drawn up in 1961 but amended to provide greater social protection last year, "provides a basis for guaranteeing social rights."

The Strasbourg summit saw the council extend its activities beyond its traditional concern with political rights, not simply into "new risk" areas such as terrorism or child abuse, but also into issues of social cohesion, charging its executive with drawing up a long-term strategy and stepping up its role in job creation, notably through its Social Development Fund.

The summit's 19-point action plan, featuring a streamlined court of human rights that will make it easier for citizens to seek redress against their governments, is designed to take the council up to 1999, the 50th anniversary of its creation.

It aims also to secure a higher profile for the council, which has long languished in the shadow of the European Union, and establish it in the minds of the people as the continent's conscience.

Sikhs demand apology from Queen Elizabeth

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least two people were injured here Sunday hours before the start of a royal visit, when police fired water cannons on some 100 Sikh demonstrators demanding an apology from Queen Elizabeth for a colonial massacre.

Witnesses said police stopped the activists outside the British High Commission in New Delhi after they had insisted on entering the complex to make a formal demand for an apology.

The protesters, waving black flags, said the queen should publicly apologise for the 1919 massacre by British troops in Jallianwala Bagh in the northern town of Amritsar.

"The queen has to apologise," they cried. "It is a black day for India today because she is coming."

The British monarch and her husband were due here

late Sunday on a six-day visit. The royal couple will visit Jallianwala Bagh where the queen will lay a wreath. But she will not apologise for the deaths of more than 300 people there.

The Sikh protesters also denounced the British army for preventing Sikh army recruits from wearing the turban, prescribed as mandatory headgear for all men by Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

It said some 70 Sikhs had been affected by the ban. "Sikhs are proud of their turban... which has great religious significance," a statement addressed to the British monarch said. "As you know the wearing of the turban by Sikh soldiers in the British army has been banned."

"This has hurt the religious feelings of the Sikh community all over the world. You are requested to intervene

and lift the ban."

The British High Commission said Sikh turbans had not been "banned" in the army.

"Sikh soldiers are required to wear special turbans, which are small and can fit under protective headgear or a combat helmet at certain times," she said. "This is for their own safety and the safety of their colleagues."

"Other Sikh religious symbols like the 'kara' (a ceremonial bangle) and the 'kiran' (a traditional Sikh scimitar) are not banned either," she said.

The official said the queen's gesture in laying a wreath at Jallianwala Bagh was a form of apology.

"She is flying out miles, she will be walking to the memorial to lay a wreath. It is a silent apology. Sometimes gestures speak louder than words."

Pilots radiated more than nuclear workers

TOKYO (R) — Pilots and crews on international flights are pelted with yearly doses of radiation about three times higher than those received by workers at nuclear plants, a Japanese daily reported Sunday.

According to a six-year survey conducted by the Japanese Federation of Flight Crew Unions, crews on international flights are being bombarded with naturally occurring cosmic radiation, the Mainichi

Shimbun reported. International crews that flew between 700 to 800 hours a year were exposed to an average of three millisieverts of radiation. The average exposure for a technician at a Japanese nuclear plant is one millisievert, the paper reported.

Japan's Science and Technology Agency sets a maximum yearly exposure safety level for nuclear plant workers at 50 millisieverts, the paper said.

The survey said that crews who flew on the New York to Tokyo route received some of the highest exposures to cosmic radiation. Routes that pass near the North Pole also receive high doses of cosmic radiation, the paper said.

The Earth's atmosphere and magnetic fields filter out almost all cosmic radiation, but at an altitude of 10,000 metres, levels of cosmic radiation are about 100 to 200 times higher than at ground level, it said.

Hanson under police protection after death threats

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian race debate MP Pauline Hanson is under heavy police protection and has applied for a gun licence after death threats linked to Vietnamese crime gangs, reports said Sunday.

The threats surfaced Saturday in a report on Asian organised crime by the Drug Investigation Group in Queensland, where Ms. Hanson holds the seat of Oxley.

Ms. Hanson has spoken out about alleged Asian links with Australia's drugs trade.

The references to Ms. Hanson in the report were brief and few details were provided but it referred to murder, attempted murder and a kidnapping and "the current threats to the life of federal politician Pauline Hanson."

A Sunday newspaper said she was taking it seriously and had applied for a gun licence and received expert training in firing the weapon.

The newspaper quoted Ms. Hanson adviser David Entridge as saying the death threats were the "only reason" she would want a gun.

But another adviser, David Oldfield, told reporters Sunday her firearm application was not related to the threats.

"She has applied for a standard firearms licence as a property owner and primary producer who may wish to put down animals on her farm."

He said Ms. Hanson "could not be happier with the protection" police were giving her, "but she stands by the view that Australians have the right to defend themselves and their families in their own homes."

In September 1994, John Newman, MP for the Sydney suburb of Cabramatta, where drug abuse and gang activity is rife, was shot dead outside his home.

The murder has not been solved, but media reports say state police believe the killers were Vietnamese drug gangsters.

Ms. Hanson recently launched her own One Nation party, after gaining notoriety last year when she warned Australia risked being "swamped" by Asians if immigration were not halted.

Polls show One Nation has the support of six per cent of the voting population but meetings to establish the party in various cities and towns have faced violent demonstrations.

Australia's new Tourism Minister Andrew Thomson, appointed in a recent cabinet reshuffle after three ministers resigned in a travel expenses scandal, said meanwhile Sunday that Ms. Hanson was "fading as a problem for Australia."

"She's had her run. She got a big run in Bangkok and in the Chinese language newspapers in Hong Kong and Singapore but it's fading now."

"I'm sure it hasn't damaged... Australia as a destination." His comments coincided with figures showing record low occupancy rates at hotels in New South Wales state, blamed on a major drop in Asian tourists which some commentators attributed partly to the "Hanson factor."

"Since April and May there has been a real decline across the board from Asian countries," Australian Hotels Association Chief Executive David Charles said.

"It has really slowed which has been exacerbated by the devaluation of their currencies."

To "counter any lingering problems sparked by Hanson" Mr. Thomson said he planned a drive to boost Australia's image as a tourist destination in Asia.

Anti-Taleban alliance gains ground in northern Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — Taleban forces have suffered losses close to the northern Afghan opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif amid heavy but brief fighting, sources said Sunday.

Independent sources said the hardline Muslim army was Saturday pushed back from a key junction situated 35 kilometres east of the city, but were unclear of the extent of the anti-Taleban gains.

A spokesman for the opposition Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, Mohammad Haidari, claimed his forces had advanced beyond the key town of Tashkurgan, situated 50 kilometres east of Mazar-i-Sharif.

He said anti-Taleban forces were now directly attacking Kunduz province, an enclave of Taleban

troops and supporters, from where the hardline Islamic troops attacked their rival's base more than a month ago.

No independent confirmation of the claimed advance to or beyond Tashkurgan was immediately available.

However, independent sources said civilian vehicles were attempting to make the journey south along the main highway which passes through Tashkurgan, but said they were unclear if any had succeeded.

Furthermore, Taleban officials in the Afghan capital and in the southern base of Kandahar remained tight-lipped about the latest developments, asserting they had "no information" on the situation.

Situated 310 kilometres north of Kabul, Mazar-i-

Sharif is the seat of shadow government for the anti-Taleban coalition and is the only one of five Afghan cities not in Taleban hands.

With the claimed advance, the alliance would control the major highway from its base to the attacking frontlines north of the capital, which have been locked in stalemate for two months.

The anti-Taleban alliance includes two Shiite Muslim factions, the ousted Kabul Mujahideen government and ethnic Uzbek fighters loyal to rival ex-Communist warlords Abdul Rashid Dostam or Abdul Malik.

The Taleban have held the capital Kabul for a year and control around two-thirds of Afghanistan, imposing a strict interpretation of Islamic law on a country gripped by more than 17 years of civil war.

Aung Kyi bears a personal grudge, says general

RANGOON (AFP) — A top Burmese general has charged pro-democrat leader Aung San Suu Kyi with bearing a personal grudge, adding it was blocking reconciliation with the junta, official press reported Sunday.

Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, the first secretary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) accused Aung San Suu Kyi and her party of giving priority to an "individual" rather than its "policy."

"It is essential for a person who will lead an organisation to possess the spirit of sacrifice and to avoid ego and personal grudge," Khin Nyunt told a gathering of 1,500 schoolteachers in Rangoon Saturday.

His comments followed the refusal of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) to hold talks with Khin Nyunt last month without the participation of the NLD leader.

Khin Nyunt said good faith and good will as well as "full confidence" in the SLORC's sincere "nation-building efforts" would be needed for any kind of dialogue with the NLD to get off the ground, the New Light of Myanmar reported.

The NLD swept the last elections held in Burma in 1990. The SLORC, which took power in 1988 after crushing pro-democracy protests, ignored the election result.

Khin Nyunt, who is also chief of military intelligence, warned that the SLORC would not tolerate any anti-government disturbances.

The junta would be obliged to take "preventive measures," in accordance with its responsibility to maintain law and protect the people and their property.

"Attempts to incite riots, causing panic among the people and deliberately manipulating and upsetting commodity prices are acts detrimental to the welfare of the people," he said.

International Population Conference opens in Beijing

BEIJING (AFP) — The annual International Population Conference opened Sunday in Beijing, the capital of the world's most populous nation.

Organised by the Belgian-based International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the four-yearly conference will attempt to tackle problems all too familiar here, including birth control, immigration, increasing life expectancy and the growing global population.

Among other topics will be falling fertility figures, challenges of ageing populations on welfare systems, environment and abortion.

China, home to 22 per cent of world population with 1.2 billion residents, will itself be a focus of the meeting, with around 40 per cent of the delegates and several of the debates dedicated to its demography.

One symposium will consider the consequences of more and more parents being able to choose the sex of their child, a phenomenon which has led to a drop in the female population ratio in some countries, including China.

The North Korean delegation will be encouraged to fill in the official blanks on their population figures to augment the paucity of information

available on the famine-ravaged Stalinist state.

At the last minute, Pyongyang sent four delegates whose names did not even make the conference list.

Some sources say a million have died due to the famine in North Korea.

No official discussion is expected on the situation in North Korea whose border is some 700 kilometres from here.

Demographers predict the global population will hit 10 billion by the end of the next century, from around six billion now.

Their arguments begin over the possibilities for providing for such a huge number of people.

Clinton to meet Macarena in the flesh in Caracas

CARACAS (R) — U.S. Democrats fervently embraced the popular Latin dance called the "Macarena" during last year's presidential campaign, but little did they know that President Bill Clinton would one day meet the real Macarena dancing queen in the flesh.

Venezuelan flamenco instructor and professional dancer Diana Patricia Cubillan, responsible for the biggest dance craze to sweep the globe, dances for the U.S. leader when he attends a state dinner in his honour Sunday evening in Caracas.

Amanda Herrera, told Reuters Saturday that Bill and Hillary Clinton expressed the wish to meet the 26-year-old professional dancer during their one-day official visit to Venezuela.

"So she was contracted to dance with her group at La Casona," the Venezuelan presidential residency, Ms. Herrera said.

She explained that President Rafael Caldera, 81, whose penchants are more for sedate classical music, agreed to invite the "real" Macarena to mark the 22nd wedding anniversary of America's first couple this weekend.

"The truth is it's not exactly the style of the president," confessed presidential spokeswoman Patricia Rodriguez.

Ms. Herrera said her daughter was "extremely happy and ordered a dress to be made for the occasion, a blue one because it is Ms. Hillary's favourite colour."

The Macarena's catchy tune, which Ms. Cubillan was expected to dance towards the end of Sunday's presentation, was composed five years ago by a duo of Spanish singers known as "Los del Rio" when they briefly teamed up with her at a Caracas show.

Amman municipality estimates revenues at JD61.7m for 1998

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipal Council will Tuesday debate the capital's 1998 fiscal budget which is estimated to total JD66.85 million.

According to council sources, the overall revenues expected during next year will amount to JD61.7 million, registering a 4.1 per cent increase over the total revenues of 1997 which were estimated at JD 59.297 million.

The sources also said that the total estimated expenditures next year will amount to JD65.85 million. As such, a deficit of JD4.1 million is expected.

Available information about the revenues so far this year shows that the Municipality of Greater Amman was able to collect JD46.02 million.

The sources said the recurrent spending expected for 1998 amount to JD29.34 million, a decline of 5.3 per cent from the 1997 figure. Recurrent expenses during the first nine months of this year have reached JD23.3 million.

The draft 1998 fiscal budget allocated JD5.5 million to capital expenditure, JD350,000 to consultations, JD2.2 million for road maintenance, JD2

million for new roads, JD5.2 million for asphalt-paving roads, JD2.1 million for the purchase of new machinery, JD1.15 million for improving street lighting, JD0.35 million for building culverts, JD1.1 million for different installations, JD0.29 million to buy construction materials and JD1.15 million to build retaining walls.

The draft budget contains allocations of JD12 million to construct tunnels for cars and building offices for the municipality's employees while the total amount of salaries for the employees were estimated at JD20.4 million.

Jordan, Iraq discuss expanding ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki Sunday reviewed with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammed Mahdi Saleh means of expanding cooperation in economic and trade fields between the two countries.

Dr. Saleh said in a statement that Jordanian-Iraqi ties are improving in terms of the volume of trade.

"Iraqi imports during the second phase of the protocol have risen by

20 per cent and our purchases through the Port of Aqaba have increased up to 400,000 tonnes from 250,000 tonnes," added Dr. Saleh.

"The volume of trade between the two countries by the end of this year will amount to \$1 billion," he indicated.

Dr. Mulki said Jordan has asked the concerned parties that other products, such as cables, electrical appliances and reinforced steel, be sold to Iraq.

Japan's overdue tax reaches \$22.3b

TOKYO (AFP) — Overdue taxes owed to the Japanese government reached a record-high 2,703 billion yen (\$22.3 billion) as of the end of March, 1997, tax agency officials have said. The previous high was 2,278 billion yen marked a year earlier, the National Tax Administration officials said. Of the total, 1,173 billion yen of tax payments were overdue for more than a year and 310.2 billion yen were found to be uncollectable, they said. Consumption tax topped the list of newly reported tax payments in arrears in the year to March at 430 billion yen for four straight years, the officials said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1997

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look carefully at your financial status today and you'll see there's a method you can easily improve it. Put your home in order for socialising later this evening and you will gain the admiration of all your guests and close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do whatever will improve your health and appearance this morning. Be sure you get any important appointments set up early today, thereby you can plan what method of operation, which you plan to use.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with your mate today how to be more successful in the days ahead. Go out on the town later this evening and have a wonderful time together at some romantic location which you have been previously.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your close friends can help you today make your social life more interesting and profitable. Start working on your goals at this time and thereby you can gain the recognition and respect of those in authority.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Budget your time carefully today so that you'll have time for personal and recreational matters. Get together with your best friends later this evening and plan just where you would like to go for some fun activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You'll have an excellent opportunity to make some highly beneficial business contacts today, so follow through with these. Use both your intellect and charm to impress him or her with method of operation for success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at fulfilling any promises you have made today, especially those made to your mate, otherwise there could be quite a difficult situation present. Much care in motion is necessary at this time to avoid any difficulties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get in touch with your allies before noon today, and finalise any plans which you have on the drawing board. Have a romantic evening with your mate at some special location which is important and memorable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can accomplish much this morning by simply applying yourself seriously. Try to cooperate more with your fellow associates and thereby everyone will be successful as a result of the joint effort.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do what you can to help your loved ones achieve their goals today, however, reserve some time for yourself, otherwise you could be friend from the tension in your life. Later this evening meet with close friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do whatever is necessary to improve the conditions at home today, however, go out for a good time with your mate or close friends. Be supportive of loyal fellow associates who have been quite helpful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Attend to any important messages this morning. Celebrate any special occasion with your mate, especially if this is the day which you both exchanged wedding vows and have some special romantic plans in mind.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Israeli minister warns research cuts hurt economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's industry and trade minister Sunday warned the cabinet that cutting research and development grants to the high technology sector would endanger the economy, the ministry said in a statement.

Natan Sharansky told the weekly cabinet meeting that high technology was responsible for 80 per cent of Israel's total industrial exports and was the country's main engine for growth.

"In order to preserve the attractiveness of the high-tech industry the government must pursue a stable policy of research and development assistance," the ministry quoted Mr. Sharansky as saying.

The treasury, as part of wider spending cuts slated for 1998, says it wants to cut the budget of the Office of the Chief Scientist, which distributes research and development assistance to high-tech companies. The office is a unit of the industry ministry.

Chief scientist Orna Berry told the cabinet there was already a 450 million shekel shortage in her budget this year.

She said if they could not obtain aid, companies would be forced to freeze their research and development budgets and transfer some of their research spending overseas.

"This shortage greatly harms the economy's chance of returning to the kind of growth we were hoping for," the ministry quoted her as saying.

Israel's economy is growing at its slowest rate in seven years, but a treasury report issued last week said the low growth reflected

rapid expansion of the technology sector as traditional sectors were contracting.

Meanwhile, Israel's high technology is drawing increasing numbers of international investors who are not discouraged by the crisis-ridden peace process, which has been locked in stalemate for 16 months.

A plethora of small information, biotechnology, telecommunications and electronics companies has been set up and is attracting capital in search of quick profits.

The exports in these sectors, which are expected to reach \$7 billion this year, are seeing annual growth of 30 per cent, said Dr. Berry.

Claude Laloum, chief of the European department of the major Israeli bank Hapoalim, said: "These companies are not affected by political tensions, because they only use a few dozen engineers who could easily be transferred to another region if war breaks out."

During the month of September alone, possibilities for participation have multiplied.

Deutsche Telekom, the German telecommunications giant, bought 21.1 per cent of the capital of Vocal Tel for \$48.3 million.

The small Israeli company specialises in transmitting telephone conversations and video images on the Internet.

The U.S. company Cylink acquired for \$83 million the Algorithmic company, which focuses on protection systems for financial transactions and credit card purchases over the Internet.

The potential market is huge, because the risk of embezzling money has so far hampered the Web's

commercial development.

The Haifa research centre of the U.S. microprocessors giant Intel was concentrating on new chips with a large capacity for handling information.

The chips should allow portable computers to be as high performance as computers in offices.

The same research centre in northern Israel invented the MMX technology used in the latest Intel microprocessors.

Major international corporations believe that it is more cost-effective to invest in a country where, with workers who have comparable training, the salaries are on average less than two-thirds of those paid in the United States or in Europe, Mr. Laloum said.

There is no shortage of brains here: The proportion of scientists and researchers is 135 for every 10,000 Israelis, compared to only 85 for every 10,000 people in the United States.

However, the cutting-edge companies still lack specialised labour. Another 3,000 engineers are required to fulfill the demand, the trade and industry ministry said.

Athena Software Services, an information company in the Tel Aviv area, has tried to get around this obstacle by offering "American salaries" to the approximately 1,500 expatriate Israeli engineers working in California, to get them to come home.

Since the beginning of the year, foreign investment on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has reached \$500 million, a 50 per cent jump compared to the same period last year.

The Israeli private sector has also invested. Pension funds, which have

a comfortable financial mattress, have been authorised to invest in high technology.

The capital mobilised by 40 funds specialising in risk capital has increased in the last decade from \$50 million to \$800 million.

"For many of these funds, we are in third place in the world after Silicon Valley in California and the Boston area," Erel Margalit, manager of investment company Jerusalem Venture Partners, said.

In this area, Israel's Gemini Capital Fund Management Ltd. said Sunday it had completed raising \$110 million for a new venture capital fund investing in Israeli high technology companies.

Gemini said in a statement that 90 per cent of the capital for the Gemini Israel II Fund had been raised from institutions, some of them investing for the first time in Israel.

Of the total, \$35 million is a specialised pool that will support only larger deals, Gemini said.

Gemini, which launched the fund raising campaign in the first quarter of this year, said the new fund would be geared towards early stage technology companies and take an active role in their strategic management.

Gemini formed its first venture capital fund, Gemini Israel I, in 1993. Today most of its \$36 million in capital is invested in 30 high-tech companies. Gemini said its new fund had already invested \$5 million in five companies.

Gemini is sponsored by Advent International of Boston together with Discount Investment corp. and PEC Israel Economic Corp.

Fed vice chairman sees 'pressures' on U.S. economic horizon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) has warned of "pressures" on the U.S. economic horizon but said there were no current imbalances that threatened expansion.

Fed Vice Chairman Alice Rivlin, interviewed by CNBC Television, also described the situation in Japan as "worrisome" but did not elaborate.

She was speaking a day after the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, sent shockwaves through U.S. financial markets with warnings that the U.S. economy remained particularly vulnerable to wage-driven inflation.

Ms. Rivlin, who said the economy was going "very well," tried to calm the storm by recalling that "it's the job of the central bank (the Federal Reserve) to worry about how long this will last and whether it's sustainable."

She said: "The Fed is watching this very favourable set of economic statistics and thinking about the future — is the economy growing too rapidly, at an unsustainable rate or not? We're not sure yet."

Mr. Greenspan last week jolted Wall Street with his observation that the U.S. economy was on an "unsustainable track" because of increasingly tight labour markets.

The fear, he said, is that demand for labour in a flourishing economy will outstrip labour supply, meaning that employers will have to pay more to attract workers who

are currently not even looking for a job.

Higher employment costs, according to the Fed, could eventually be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Ms. Rivlin said the Federal Reserve realises that "it's been a very long expansion and a very favourable set of circumstances — and that there are some pressures on the horizon that need to be thought about."

Chief among them is wage-driven inflation.

But for the moment, according to Ms. Rivlin, such pressures are not apparent. "Wage pressures have been quite moderate in this expansion and, considering that labour markets are very tight ... we have not seen extraordinary wage increases," she said.

"But if the unemployment rate should drop much further and if we run out of employable people, then we might be in a more pressurised situation," she added.

She stressed that for the moment there appeared to be no imbalances that seriously threatened growth, notably as the expansion has been uniform across the country and across economic sectors.

"I think it means our economy is increasingly flexible," she told an interviewer. "People move to jobs, jobs move to people."

Asked about developments elsewhere, she noted that European economies were "coming back" but cautioned that "the Japanese situation does look worrisome."

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS
1 Influence
5 Level
9 Spunkier's arena
13 Suit to —
14 Addled
15 Slidder
16 Scoria
17 Getz or Freiberg
18 Diving birds
19 Neal
21 Michael Caine film
22 "— the ramparts..."
23 Cinder
24 Hoosier
28 Secure
32 Tramontane
33 Gossip
34 Whale chaser
36 — days' wonder
37 Like a fish
39 Bird of peace
39 Traffic sign
40 Theater box
41 Quartet voices
42 Tangle
44 Up-to-date
45 Elmyra
46 Defeat at bridge
47 Brilliance
50 Expedient
56 Trough
57 Actor Estrada
58 Citrus fruit
59 Prepared an apple
60 Wander aimlessly
61 Pett —
62 Gave the once-over
63 Pitcher
64 Pithier

DOWN
1 Bুদ্ধ
2 Beehive state
3 Son of Leah
4 Hurdle
5 Bacon serving
6 "— is Bom"
7 Tidal stage
8 "Citizen"
9 Composed
10 Beginning with

11 Start of Caesar's boast
12 Irish Gaelic
15 Sputter
20 Forthwith
23 Court figure: abbt.
24 Lories
25 Size of type
26 Synthetic fabric
27 Ignominy
28 Nuncio
29 Sea eagle
30 Ganges's river
31 Experience
33 Christian
35 Swiss capital
37 Tart
41 Children
43 Famous
44 More timid
45 Shave leather
47 — hornet

48 Bok —
49 Come-on
50 Seard
51 In a line
52 Fit of anger
53 Composer
54 Stravinsky
55 Fatigue

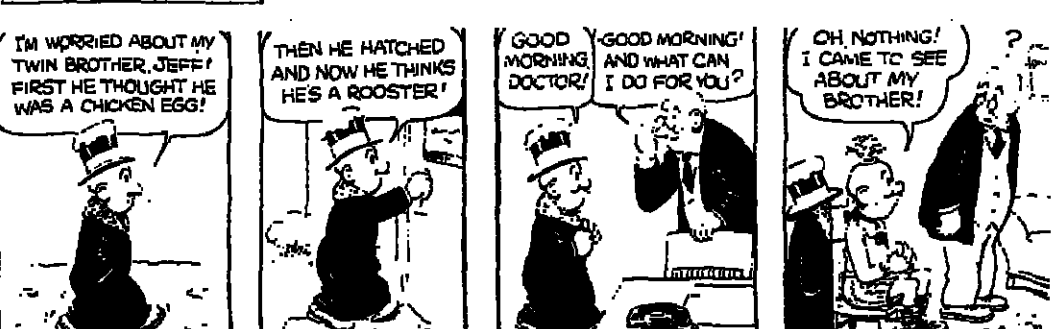
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENGOM
REHKI
SHORUC
DROICH

Answer: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: NEWSY CANAL MEMORY ATTACH
Answer: When the newscaster went sailing it was ANCHOR'S AWAY

REUTERS

The Business

Currency	USD	GBP
US Dollar	1.000	0.750
British Pound	1.333	1.000
Japanese Yen	160.000	116.667
Swiss Franc	1.750	1.333
German Mark	1.936	1.452
French Franc	6.555	5.000
Italian Lira	2036.371	1536.371
Spanish Peseta	166.643	127.037

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	21.84	21.84
WTI	21.82	21.82
Gas	21.82	21.82
Coal	19.65	19.65
US Gas	21.82	21.82

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.718	0.718
GE Sterling	1.498	1.498
DE Mark	2.404	2.404
CH Franc	2.484	2.484
FR Franc	0.704	0.704
JP Yen	190.2	190.2
NL Guilder	3.585	3.585
IT Lira	4.108	4.108

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Index

Index	Value
New York	8000.00
New York	8000.00
London	FT-SE 100
Tokyo	Nikkei 225
Paris	CAC 40
Frankfurt	DAX

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England draw in Italy, join qualifiers

Germany, Holland, Denmark, Austria and Scotland clinch World Cup spots

PARIS (AFP) — England held Italy to a 0-0 draw on a night of crowd violence in Rome and made certain of their place in next year's World Cup finals in France.

The stalemate ensured 1966 winners England finished on top of European Group Two and means Italy will now have to contest a play-off with one of seven other group runners-up to earn a place in the finals.

Germany scrambled to a 4-3 win over lowly Albania in Hanover but it was enough to seal them top spot in Group Nine and also clinch a place in France.

England and Germany were joined in qualifying by Holland, Denmark, Austria and Scotland on a frantic night of European action.

A total of 20 teams out of 32 have now qualified. England, who failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, played with great discipline against an uninspired Italian side who are in danger of missing out for the first time since 1958.

The match was marred by fighting in the stands and one policeman and at least two of England's notorious fans were injured in the clashes.

England, who defended for most of the match, could have won but striker Ian Wright hit a post in the dying minutes. Italy had Angelo Di Livio sent off for a wild challenge in the 76th minute and finished the match with 10 men.

Skipper Paul Ince was inspirational for England, finishing the game with a crimson-soaked bandage failing to halt the blood pumping from his gashed head.

England were the first nation to take a World Cup point off Italy in Rome in 16 matches.

Three-time world champions Germany, unbeaten in their last 18 games, finished on top of their group, two points ahead of Ukraine — who won 2-0 away to Armenia and will contest the play-offs.

Portugal finished third despite a 1-0 win over Northern Ireland and were eliminated.

Holland could only draw 0-0 at home to Turkey in Group Seven but it was enough to finish a point in front of neighbours and close rivals Belgium, who grabbed a place in the play-offs with a 3-2 win over Wales.

The Belgians led 3-0 at halftime but Wales rallied impressively and had two penalty appeals turned down in the second half. "They were blatant," said furious Welsh captain Ryan Giggs.

Denmark drew 0-0 against Greece to end on top of Group One — a match that was delayed for several minutes after Greek spectators threw flares onto the pitch — while Croatia grabbed second spot ahead of the Greeks with a 3-1 win in Slovenia.

Austria also qualified for the finals with an impressive 4-0 win over Belarus in Vienna that sealed them top spot in Group Four. The Austrians will be playing in the finals for the seventh time.

England coach Glenn Hoddle (C) celebrates with assistant trainer John Gorman after England and Italy tied 0-0 in their World Cup qualifying match in Rome. England qualified while Italy have to go into the play-offs to get a place (Reuters photo)



England coach Glenn Hoddle (C) celebrates with assistant trainer John Gorman after England and Italy tied 0-0 in their World Cup qualifying match in Rome. England qualified while Italy have to go into the play-offs to get a place (Reuters photo)



Austrian striker Toni Polster (R) scores his second goal from a penalty in the final World Cup qualification match against Belarus. Austria won the match 4-0 and also won the World Cup qualification Group 4 with 25 points. On the left is Belarus' goalkeeper Andrei Satsunkevich (Reuters photo)

made it 2-1 with a superb 73rd-minute header.

Aleksander Tare then equalized for the Albanians, using some clever control before clipping past the goalkeeper into the net.

Olaf Marshall made it 3-2 for the Germans with four minutes remaining but former Celtic midfielder Rudi Vata levelled it at 3-3 with an 88th-minute shot on the turn before Bierhoff grabbed the winner in the last minute of a bizarre encounter.

"We have a hell of a lot of work ahead of us," said relieved German coach Bert Vogts.

Ukraine, meanwhile, got goals from Andrei Shevchenko and Yuri Maximov in Armenia.

Veteran striker Toni Polster and Peter Stoecker scored two goals apiece for the Austrians — all coming in the first half.

Scotland sealed their place with a 2-0 home win over Latvia while Sweden — who finished third in the 1994 World Cup — ended up third despite a 1-0 win over Estonia and failed to

qualify.

Strikers Kevin Gallacher, with a close-range shot, and Gordon Durie, with a late header, were Scotland's heroes as they ultimately got the better of a tough, defence-minded Latvian outfit.

The Republic of Ireland, meanwhile, drew 1-1 at home to Romania, making sure of second place in Group Eight and their spot in the play-offs.

Romania had already clinched top spot in the group and their spot in France and went through the qualifying tournament unbeaten.

They took the lead with a 35-yard shot from Gheorghe Hagi and held the lead until Tony Casciaro equalized for the Irish with a header six minutes from fulltime — his 19th goal for the Republic.

Yugoslavia romped to a 5-0 win away to Malta — good enough for second spot in Group Six after Spain, already assured of qualifying, got two goals from Luis Enrique in a 3-1 win at home to the Faroe Islands in Gijon.

Bulgaria, relaxed after already having sealed their spot in the finals, went down 4-2 away to Russia in Group Five in a match that had no bearing on qualification.

Norway had already won Group Three and Hungary grabbed the runner-up spot with a dramatic 1-1 draw away to rivals Finland, who had needed to win to advance to the play-offs. The Hungarians are bidding to qualify for the first time since 1986 but left it to the last minute to get their fortunate equalizer.

Vilmos Sebok saw his shot deflected by Finland's Sami Mähli, hit goalkeeper Teuvo Mäkelä in the back and go in the net to rob the home side of a play-off spot.

The 14 teams to have qualified prior to Saturday's matches were: France (hosts), Brazil (holders), Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon, Romania, Norway, Bulgaria, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay.

Final European Group standings

Group One	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Denmark	8	5	2	1	14	6	17
Croatia	8	4	3	1	17	12	15
Greece	8	4	2	2	11	4	14
Bosnia-Herz.	8	3	0	5	9	14	9
Slovenia	8	0	1	7	5	20	1

Group Two	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
England	8	6	1	1	15	2	19
Italy	8	5	3	0	11	1	18
Poland	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Georgia	8	3	1	4	7	9	10
Moldova	8	0	0	8	2	21	0

Group Three	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Norway	8	6	2	0	21	2	20
Hungary	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
Finland	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Switzerland	8	3	1	4	11	12	10
Azerbaijan	8	1	0	7	3	22	3

Group Four	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Austria	10	8	1	1	17	4	25
Scotland	10	7	2	1	15	3	23
Sweden	10	7	0	3	16	9	21
Latvia	10	3	1	6	10	14	10
Estonia	10	1	1	8	4	16	4
Belarus	10	1	1	8	5	21	4

Group Five	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Bulgaria	8	6	0	2	18	9	18
Russia	8	5	2	1	19	5	17
Israel	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
Cyprus	8	3	1	4	10	15	10
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	2	22	0

Group Six	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Spain	10	8	2	0	26	6	26
Yugoslavia	10	7	2	1	29	7	23
Czech Republic	10	5	1	4	16	6	16
Slovakia	10	5	1	4	18	14	16
Faroe Islands	10	2	0	8	10	31	6
Malta	10	0	0	10	2	37	0

Group Seven	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Holland	8	6	1	1	26	4	19
Belgium	8	6	0	2	20	11	18
Turkey	8	4	2	2	21	9	14
Wales	8	2	1	5	20	21	7
San Marino	8	0	0	8	0	42	0

Group Eight	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Romania	10	9	1	0	37	4	28
R. of Ireland	10	5	3	2	22	8	18
Lithuania	10	5	2	3	11	8	17
Macedonia	10	4	1	5	22	18	13
Iceland	10	2	3	5	11	16	9
Liechtenstein	10	0	0	10	3	52	0

Group Nine	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Germany	10	6	4	0	23	9	22
Ukraine	10	6	2	2	10	6	20
Portugal	10	5	4	1	12	4	19
Armenia	10	1	5	4	8	17	8
N. Ireland	10	1	4	5	6	10	7
Albania	10	1	1	8	7	20	4

World Cup play-off qualifiers

PARIS (AFP) — The following is a list of runners-up in European qualifying groups for the 1998 World Cup in France.

Scotland qualify directly as the runners-up with the best record against the top teams in their group, while the eight others will contest two-leg play-offs on October 29 and November 15 with the winners advancing.

The draw for the play-offs will be made on Monday afternoon:

1- Scotland 13

2- Belgium 12

3- Italy 12

4- Yugoslavia 11

5- Croatia 11

6- Russia 9

7- Ukraine 8

8- R. of Ireland 8

9- Hungary 6

Africa — a continent to be respected

LENS (AFP) — Africa will be a continent to be reckoned with in next year's World Cup, South African coach Clive Barker said after their impressive showing despite defeat to France here on Saturday night.

For the first time ever, the 32-nation World Cup has five African teams — Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon and Morocco.

"There won't be any easy contests against African sides in the World Cup," said the diminutive coach Barker who has a record of 22 wins, eight draws and eight losses since taking charge in April 1994.

South Africa, nicknamed Bafana Bafana, fell 2-1 in a friendly victory on Saturday in a match where the visitors proved themselves worthy World Cup qualifiers.

When Shaun Bartlett put the African champions ahead just before the break, it looked as though they might sneak their first ever victory

over European competition. But debutant Stephane Guivarch and then substitute Ibrahim Ba found the net in the second half to secure the win for France.

"I'm sure African sides will be respected next year in France."

We may not have won, but France did not have it all their own way and I think we earned their respect," Barker added.

Just eight months before the opening of next year's June 10 to July 12 finals, the Felix Bollaert stadium saw a hotly-contested fixture between countries more suited to rugby internationals.

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit left the field with half an hour gone with a right ankle injury, leaving the way for midfielder Alain Boghossian to make his first appearance for France.

South Africa had a few long range shots and crosses which came to nothing before France

had a major shock.

With five minutes to go till the interval, Phil Masinga did superbly well to win the ball just outside the area. The French defence moved forward thinking the pass to Bartlett was well offside.

But the 25-year-old New York MetroStars striker, winning his 14th cap, provoked no flag from Luxembourg referee Roger Philipp.

Bartlett promptly rounded the keeper and easily guided the ball into an empty net.

Louds jeers emanated from the disappointed home crowd on the first half whistle.

Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane came on for striker Robert Pires to give France more midfield muscle in the second half.

And minutes later he nearly scored as his right foot shot from an angle skimmed keeper Andre Arendsi's right hand post.

So it was no surprise

when the 53rd minute equalizer included Zidane. His first shot was cleared badly leaving Guivarch to slot the ball past Arendsi for his first international goal.

John Moeti received a yellow card for a foul on Djorkaiff moments before substitute Isaac Shah moved into left midfield in place of Helman Mkhalele.

Both sides changed around with Pierre Laigle coming in at left back in place of Vincent Candela, and Ba replacing Djorkaiff for France.

And South Africa's Clint Larsen replaced midfielder Eric Tinkler followed by Mark Williams coming on up front for goal scorer Bartlett.

AC Milan's Ba then hit the winner for France with seven minutes to go. Fed by skipper Didier Deschamps, he stormed into the area and angled his shot just inside Arendsi's right hand post.

Barker said afterwards

self-belief was the difference between the two sides. "We need to have a little bit more confidence in ourselves and go the extra mile."

"I was a little disappointed with the result because we were so close, in fact eight minutes from a historic victory. The rainy conditions did not help us and I think if we had been playing on a hot sunny day in Johannesburg, it might have been different."

French coach Aime Jacquet said: "This match was a good base to start from and gave us a lot to think about."

"We played against an excellent South African team technically and physically. After the break, it was better, we were more aggressive and had a better balance in our play."

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PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Watch out for the new play
Bruce Willis...in	Eddie Murphy...in	John Travolta & Nicholas Cage...in	CONCORD "1" Holly Hunter & Sigourney Weaver...in	ABDOUN Will Smith & Tommy Lee Jones...in	ABDOUN Julia Roberts...in	THE GOVERNMENT
THE FIFTH ELEMENT	THE NUTTY PROFESSOR	FACE OFF	COPY CAT (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)	MEN IN BLACK	MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING	IN THE SERVICE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "2" Cindy Crawford...in	Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	OF PEOPLE
			FAIR GAME Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only			Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas

Hamed retains crown

SPORTS IN

Shafiq receives AI H

Saudi Arabia coach g

Grigorian retains title

Brazil unlikely to call

Rings retains title

Amman Little

Tot Division 1990-1992 (A)

Al-Jazeera Exchange

Kim Delough

Juniors One Division

IPCO 0 vs Al-Jazeera

Nokia 2 vs Varta 0

Standings: Nokia 10 points, Varta 0

6 points, IPCO 2 points

Juniors Two Division

Interet vs Porsche

Standings: Interet 7 points, Porsche 0

Mids Division 1984-1985

Reinert 2 vs Amman

Arby's 2 vs Dune

Standings: Dune's Club 9

Amigo Nabil 7 points, Arby's 0

Senior Division

Jordan Insurance 1994

Standings: Jordan Insurance 5 vs

Coffee Break 3 points

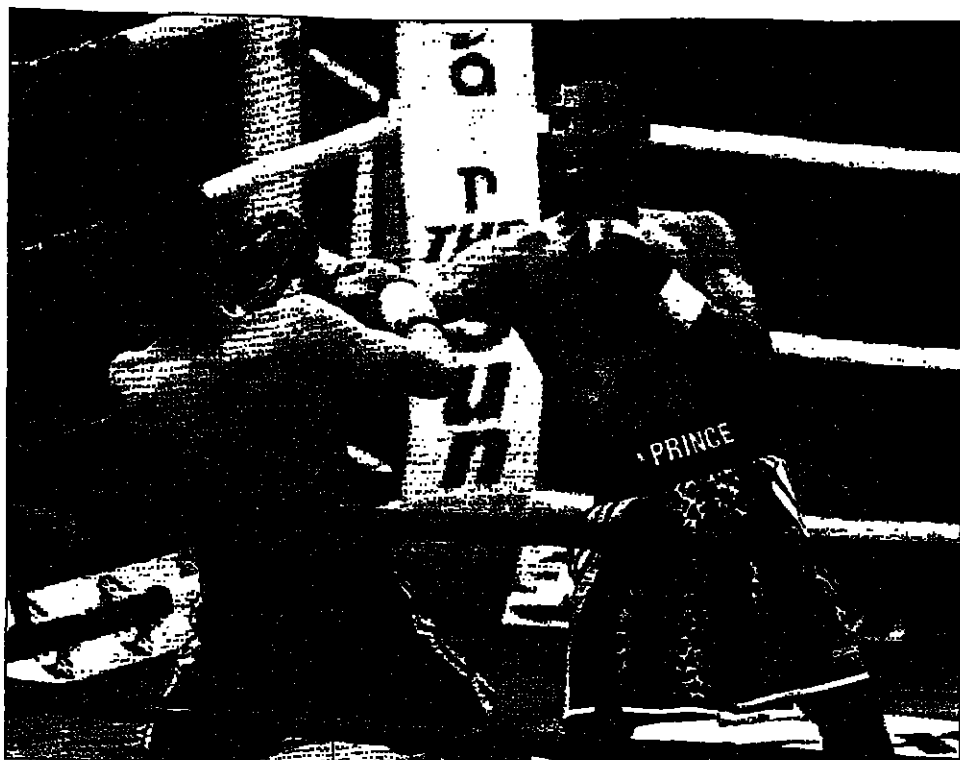
Hamed retains crown

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Britain's World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion 'Prince' Naseem Hamed turned on a superb display of thunderous jabbing to outclass Puerto Rico's Jose Badillo and retain his crown here Saturday night.

Hamed successfully completed his eighth defence of his title by stopping the 27-year-old southpaw in the seventh round of a scheduled 12-round contest.

Badillo, who had soaked up tremendous punishment, was finally saved when the referee stopped the contest as Hamed tore in with a series of bruising combinations.

After Hamed had made his usual spectacular entrance, he went clinically to work using a jab he had under-employed in previous defences. Very soon Badillo's face was swollen and bruised but he bravely stayed upright and survived the expected third-round onslaught — Hamed having predicted that he would finish it before the fourth.



British boxer Prince Naseem Hamed (R) fights Jose Badillo from Puerto Rico for the WBO featherweight championship in Sheffield October 10. Hamed won the bout after the referee stopped the fight in the 7th round (Reuters photo)

In the fifth, Hamed clowning and shuffled and the capacity Sheffield crowd loved it. But Hamed's manager Brendan Ingle was clearly not amused.

Badillo, who lost his previous world challenge for the IBF crown against Hamed's victim Tom Johnson, managed to land a chopping right which Hamed acknowledged with a nod. But the pressure was telling.

The end came in the seventh with the challenger clearly unable to defend himself.

After his win Hamed said: "I boxed brilliant, I don't care what anyone says. I'm not just a puncher. I have got a wicked technique."

I am one in a million. I am the best in the world.

"Badillo was a good boxer," Hamed went on, adding: "He was strong and he has my respect. But I used my head and in the

end he went the same way as the others."

Hamed is now heading Madison Square Garden in New York before Christmas where he is expected to meet American Kevin Kelley.

Kelley, who was at ringside to witness Hamed's win, said afterwards: "I am the real deal. I am going to smoke your boots. I am a party crasher. I am going to crash your party."

Ferrari tactics put Schumacher back in championship

SUZUKA (AFP) — Perfect Ferrari tactics and teamwork won Michael Schumacher Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix and put him back in contention for the 1997 World Championship, setting up a shoot-out with Jacques Villeneuve at the final race in Spain.

Villeneuve came here the favourite to win the title, with a nine point lead over Schumacher. He left with a lead of just one point, and that lead in jeopardy if he loses an appeal against disqualification from this race.

"I have to think a long time back for so much satisfaction," said a beaming Schumacher, "not only for the victory but for coming back into the championship."

Ferrari made Schumacher's teammate Eddie Irvine both a hare and a tortoise, using his expertise on the Suzuka track to take an early lead, then pulling him back to give Schumacher the lead and block Villeneuve.

"Today we saw a great team at work," said Ferrari team boss Jean Todt, "a great Eddie and a great Michael."

Schumacher also praised Irvine, saying the race had ended all the questions, posed recently in the Italian media, about Irvine's future with Ferrari.

In a rare display of team tactics in modern Formula One, both Ferrari and Williams planned blocking strategies for the race, in which Villeneuve would win the title if he finished ahead of Schumacher.

It was Ferrari plan, which included superior pit stop strategy, that succeeded. "I had only one objective," Villeneuve said. "To block Michael and try to get cars between us."

He took the lead from pole position into the first corner, with a display of aggressive driving that nearly had Schumacher pushed off the track.

But Villeneuve admitted he was "astonished that no one passed Schumacher" as he held up the Ferrari and a train of 12 cars, almost nose to tail.

Irvine took the lead on lap 3 of the 53 lap race with some masterly passing moves on his favourite circuit, then "waited for the phone call."



Germany's Michael Schumacher drives his Ferrari to win the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix race in Suzuka. Schumacher clocked one hour 29 minutes 48.446 seconds in 53 laps (Reuters photo)

It was a radio message from the Ferrari pits that told him to slow down, let Schumacher past, and block Villeneuve to allow Schumacher to build up a comfortable lead.

Any chance Villeneuve had of catching Schumacher disappeared when a fuel hose problem cost him an extra lap pit stop.

Williams technical chief Patrick Head later said: "I think Villeneuve probably lost a bit of heart after that stop."

Hill held Schumacher up for an entire lap, costing him four seconds of a five-second lead over Frentzen, bringing angry gestures from Schumacher when he eventually passed.

Then Hill let Frentzen past immediately, but the Williams driver knew he would find Schumacher very difficult to pass, and

did not seriously try.

The major controversy of the weekend was the disqualification of Villeneuve on Saturday for not slowing under a yellow flag, for which he has twice been penalised, and once pardoned, already this year.

It was only a Williams appeal to the FIA's International Tribunal that got Villeneuve reinstated in the race.

The Tribunal sits in Paris, probably next week before practice for the European Grand Prix starts in Jerez, Spain, on Oct. 24.

Depending on the result, either Villeneuve or Schumacher will have a lead of one point before the race there.

"Whoever finishes in front will be the champion," Schumacher said. "That's the right situation for me."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Shafiq receives Al Hussein award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali's and Jordanian national team goalkeeper Anis Shafiq was Sunday presented with the Hussein Distinguished Award of the second degree. HRH Prince Abdullah, president of the Jordan Football Association, presented the award to the veteran player on the occasion of his retirement from the sport.

Saudi Arabia coach gets the chop

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia coach Eduardo 'Vingada' was sacked on Sunday following the narrow 1-0 victory over Qatar in a World Cup qualifier. The Portuguese will be replaced by German Otto Pfeister for the remainder of the qualifying competition. The Saudis currently lie second in Asian Zone Group B, level on seven points with China after four games. Iran lead the table with eight points. Only the group winners are certain of reaching the finals in France next year.

Grigorian retains title

COTTBUS, Germany (AFP) — Artur Grigorian of Uzbekistan retained his WBO lightweight title on Saturday night with a unanimous 12-round decision over American David Armstrong. German-based Grigorian improved his record to 23-0, while Armstrong fell to 11-2-2.

Brazil unlikely to call up Elber

HANOVER (AFP) — Bayern Munich's quicksilver striker Giovane Elber is unlikely to feature in Brazil's World Cup team in France next year — Brazil's manager Mario Zagalo admitted here Saturday. Zagalo, in Germany to watch Germany's victory in their World Cup qualifier against Albania on Saturday, said after the match that he had no plans to call the 25-year-old Elber into the squad.

Hingis retains title

FILDERSTADT (AFP) — World No.1 Martina Hingis breezed to a 6-4, 6-2 win over American Lisa Raymond on Sunday to win the WTA Tour event here for the second straight year. It was the first time in her career that the 17-year-old Swiss player had successfully defended a title. Hingis, the top seed, took just 66 minutes to defeat unseeded Raymond for her 11th title of the year.

Amman Little League

Tots Division 1990-1992 (All are winners)
Alsadat Exchange vs ATRO
Klim vs Delonghi

Juniors One Division 1988-1989
IPCO 0 vs Aljawhara 1
Nokia 2 vs Varta 0
Standings: Nokia 10 points; Varta 4 points; Al Jawhara; 6 points; IPCO 2 points

Juniors Two Division 1986-1987
Intervet vs Porsche (will be played on Mon. Oct. 13th)
Standings: Intervet 7 points; RMCCS 4 points; Porsche 5 points; RJ 0 points

Mids Division 1984-1985
Reinert 2 vs Amigo Nabil 2
Arby's 2 vs Dune's Club 4
Standings: Dune's Club 9 points; Reinert 4 points; Amigo Nabil 7 points; Arby's 3 points;

Senior Division 1981-1983
Jordan Insurance 5 vs Coffee Break 1
Zalattimo 3 vs Coaches 4
Standings: Jordan Insurance 4 points; Zalattimo 4 points; Coffee Break 3 points;

Major League results

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Results Saturday from the Major League Baseball playoffs (all series best of seven):

American League finals
Cleveland 2 Baltimore 1 (12 innings)
(Cleveland lead series 2-1)
National League finals
Atlanta 4 Florida 0
(Series tied 2-2)

Gustafsson beats Kiefer to win Singapore Open

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Swedish veteran Magnus Gustafsson, seeking to rebuild a career disrupted by injury, outlasted German rising star Nicolas Kiefer in an intense three-set final to win the Singapore Open on Sunday.

Gustafsson, 30, seeded seventh, fought back from one set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in two hours, two minutes at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in front of 5,000 fans. He is the oldest player to win a title so far this year.

Top-seeded Indians Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won their sixth doubles title of the year when they beat experienced Americans Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4, with a service break in each set.

The Asian flag-bearers made sure of securing a berth in the ATP world doubles championship with their win, which was worth \$45,000 for the duo-ranked number five in the world.

The singles victory was worth \$102,000 for the Swede, a former top 10 player who is now ranked world number 42, six rungs above the 20-year-old German who pocketed \$53,000.

It was the 10th career title for Gustafsson, who overcame a brief spell of frustration over questionable line calls and prevented the highly-rated Boris Becker protégé from winning his second tournament within a month.

"I really wanted to win this badly, to get my titles into a double figure," said the genial Swede, who underwent surgery to correct a shoulder problem earlier this year for the second time in three years.

Kiefer won the first set in 50 minutes with a service break in the last game, but his usually potent serve which was not broken in four previous matches collapsed against the determined Swede who hit back with all he had.

Gustafsson broke Kiefer's serve twice in the second set to draw level and raced to a 3-0 lead in the deciding set, cheered on by fans whose support he said surprised him.

But Kiefer fought to level at 3-3, breaking the Swede's

serve with some brilliant service returns in the fifth game. The eighth game went to deuce five times before Kiefer hit long to hand his opponent the crucial break.

Gustafsson proceeded to serve out the match, finishing it off with his favourite cross-court forehand.

Both players questioned several line calls and Gustafsson said he was happy he kept his temper in check and didn't do or say anything he would have regretted later.

Gustafsson paid tribute to the talent of Kiefer, who won his first tournament last month in Toulouse and is rated as one of the most exciting young players in world tennis.

"He is fast. He has a good first serve, he is a very tough competitor," Gustafsson said. "He has definitely got a future."

Kiefer said he didn't play his usual game but added that the confidence boost he received from making the final here, on top of his Toulouse win, was "good preparation" for the future.

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